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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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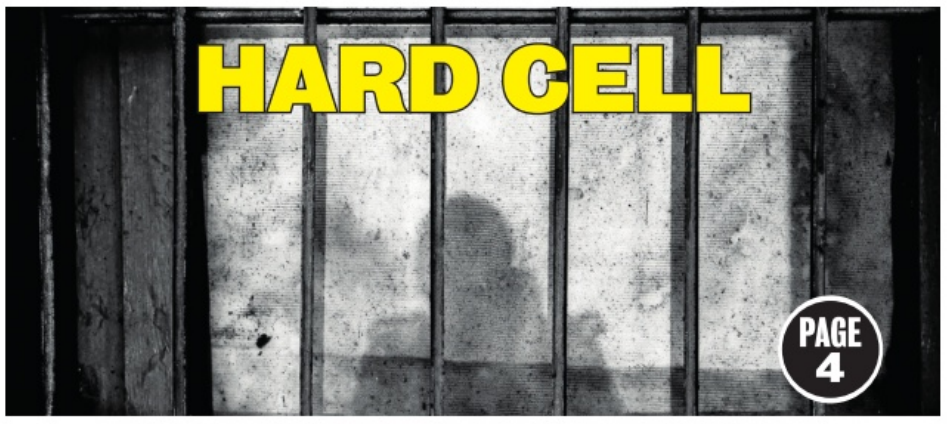

To achieve spic and span stretches, Smart City 'ignoring service and maintenance' as residents don't know whom to contact for upkeep

DARK NIGHTS IN SMART TIMES

'BSCL should hand over maintenance to BBMP'

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Smart City work on selected roads in and around the central business district (CBD) of Bengaluru has ensured motorists and pedestrians can avail advanced and modern facilities that are 'smart'.

From smart signals to digital information boards and light-controlled crossings to smart dustbins and parking systems, Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) is leaving no stone unturned.

However, in this flurry of activities to achieve spic and span stretches, service and maintenance aspects have been ignored. Residents in and around these roads are now in the lurch over whom to contact for the upkeep.

For instance, for over a month now, commuters using Queen's Road during night-time or early morning hours have had no other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Saplings planted over debris are not being watered. While costly pedestrian space is being misused, we have no means to raise complaints

— Susan P, resident

Quality policing

Some 'qualitative offences' are over-speeding, helmet-less riding, triple riding, not wearing seat belts and signal jumping

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Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) shall now prioritise booking of 'qualitative violations' of vehicle users than focussing on 'quantitative offences'.

"Earlier, our men used to flag down vehicles for visible violations and then check for all kinds of violations on the vehicle and rider/driver, and end up booking almost four to six violations per vehicle. Now, they have been instructed to focus on booking only qualitative offences," said deputy commissioner of police (traffic), west, Kuldeep Kumar R Jain.

The traffic cops, especially the enforcement teams, have been briefed about qualitative offences such as over-speeding, helmet-less riding, triple riding, not wearing seat belts, signal jumping and a few other offences which would directly impact the safety of the rider/driver and/or others on the road, and book such cases on priority.

"Earlier, in the west division alone, over-speeding cases booked on a daily basis were around 50 to 60, but at present it has increased to 90 to 100 per day; almost double the number. By this way of enforcement, we have brought down the rate of accidents from about 6% to 8% in our division," said Jain, stressing on increased booking of cases on other qualitative violations as there is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

An open letter for protecting biopark

Activist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy unhappy over illegal transfer of biopark's land lease contracts

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Renowned environmentalist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy has written an open letter to government officials for illegally transferring land lease agreements belonging to the Biodiversity Park on BU's Jnana Bharathi campus to various agencies.

Reddy also had returned his doctorate degree as he was disappointed with the developments at the biopark; he had even appealed to Dr Venugopal (Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University) to withdraw all approvals of the lease of the land which had nurtured ecosystems established over two decades with the help of public contribution.

In his letter, Reddy stated that Venugopal had started allotting lands to various agencies which could result in the destruction of the park and the building of infrastructure of other institutions could have been done on other lands in any of the districts.

The biopark consists of a large expanse of space with a lot of greenery. Reddy had created thematic gardens and even restored the entire ecosystem of the area which was earlier a barren land.

Since 2020 the issue has been going on, while no action has been taken by any government officials to stop it.

In his letter he said, " I also appeal to the members of the public to write to the government of Karnataka, to cancel all the leases and grants to various agencies made during the tenure of Dr Venugopal and restore the assets which belong to the Jnanabharathi campus."

He also stated that the citizens need to step up and protect the city's bioparks, especially at crucial times when Bengaluru is already reeling under the impact from climate changes like global warming, flooding and other problems.

An expanse of greenery on the Jnana Bharathi campus

K'taka boy's body to arrive on Monday

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that the remains of Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar, who was killed in Ukraine on March 1, would arrive in Bengaluru on Monday, March 21.

"The body of Naveen Gyanagouda, who was recently killed in Ukraine in Russian shelling, will be brought to Bengaluru on Monday at 3 am," the Chief Minister tweeted on Friday.

A 21-year-old fourth-year medical student studying in Kharkiv in Ukraine, Naveen was killed when he ventured out of his bunker to buy some food, water and exchange money.

The student hailing from Chalageri village in Ranebennur Taluk of Haveri in Karnataka was the second son in the family, and his father had been demanding his body be brought back for the last rites. -PTI

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4 THINGS TO DO

01 Shoppers' paradise

Hi Life Exhibition, one of the most exciting and exclusive fashion exhibitions of India with exclusive designs of haute couture, personal style, home décor and luxury products, is back in the city. The top renowned designers from across India will be showcasing some of their best designer works of art, from wedding ensembles, designer apparels and jewellery to fashion accessories, home accessories to furnishing concepts to new-age art.
Where: The Lalit Ashok, Seshadripuram
When: March 19 – 21, 10am – 8pm

02 For the love of kathak

Kathak, is a classical dance that roots in the ever-changing geography of space, time and movement ever since its inception. Parichay is a two-part performance that takes you through the traditional presentation of the form, to the art-making tradition/ adaption of the form, showcasing the evolution of the form. Artiste Nikhil Ravi Parmar, is a multi-disciplinary visionary, who has spent over a decade in performing arts, research, education, teaching pedagogy and curation.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: March 19, 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Entry: Free, 080 2649 3982

03 An evening of music

The launch of RV University's Centre of Visual & Performing Arts, where eminent film and theatre personalities like B Jayashree (former MP, Rajya Sabha), Arundhati Nag (founder of Ranga Shankara), and Mr Jayant Kaikini will be the chief guests. In the evening, there will be performances by Hindustani vocal artistes Kashyap Bandhu, Yakshagana by students of Yaksha Degula and Sangeeta Katti's tribute to Lata Mangeshkar, from 5.30 - 9.00 pm.
Where: RV Dental College auditorium, JP Nagar
When: March 19, 4pm – 5pm

04 Dance, Dance, Dance

A consistently successful event since its inception, the Drishti National Dance Festival is the brainchild of renowned Bharatnatyam dancer Anuradha Vikranth and her husband T M Vikranth. To commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the theme of the forthcoming festival will be Bharatiya Kala Drishti - Insights into Indic Art and Culture. The 17th edition of the festival will feature some of the finest artists of the country in different genres of Indian classical dance styles such as Bharatnatyam, Kathak and Odissi.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval
When: March 19, 6 pm
Contact: 9242104755 / 9845555422

Book distribution firms at loggerheads

One staffer of complainant's firm colluded with competitor to leak secret information; cops arrest three

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Two renowned book distributors, one of them a leading enterprise in schoolbooks and another a popular book house brand, have locked horns with the former filing a case of cheating and criminal breach of trust against the latter.

The Jagjivan Ram Nagar police have taken up a case against the proprietor and another staff member of the popular book house brand, along with an admin staff from the complainant's firm who was allegedly lured to leak secret office information.

In his complaint to the cops, R Nagesh, proprietor of Subhas Enterprises, stated that his enterprise has been a well-known distributor in schoolbooks in south India since 2007.

During March 2022, the staff of Suhas Enterprise had visited several schools for orders for the upcoming academic year, and during such visits, a few schools said that one of their competitors had offered nominal rates in comparison for the various publications prescribed in the curriculum. "We were shocked to discover that the competitor offered a discount to the schools," said Nagesh.

The accused offered discounted rates for book orders to schools

Realising something was amiss, Nagesh conducted an internal inquiry among all of the staffers at his firm and discovered that the proprietor and a member of the competitor firm had lured one of the admin staffers at his own firm who had leaked confidential information including the company's discount structure, school book list and other information regarding the process, profits and commission.

Nagesh stated that the accused admin member who was entrusted with confidential information and credentials had conspired with the proprietor and staff of the other company and leaked the information via email to the competitor's email IDs.

The competitor's staff, going through the discount structure, quoted lower rates to schools and stole the orders that Suhas Enterprise had originally placed.

JJ Nagar police have taken up a case booking the accused under sections of IPC 408 (criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant), 418 (cheating with knowledge that wrongful loss may ensue to person whose interest offender is bound to protect) and 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property).

6 arrested for stabbing man

Cops have arrested six for stabbing an elderly man to death when he objected to them doing bike stunts and smoking in front of his Vijayanagar residence.

According to DCP (West) Sanjeev M Patil on Friday, the incident had taken place near Mary Matha Church in the KP Agrahara police station limits on March 11. TThe bikers used to race and indulge in wheeling causing nuisance in front of the residence of Thomas, the victim, a local resident.

Later, Thomas had complained about the incident to the father of one of the accused, who was present in the house. He called the man out and stabbed him with a dagger and knife. After the incident, the youth fled from the spot leaving behind the profusely bleeding victim. Though the deceased was rushed to a nearby hospital, he succumbed to injuries in a few minutes.

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Karaga to be held as usual

After a gap of two years, the Karaga festival will be open to public this year.

A preliminary meeting was held on Friday where it was decided to organise the festival, as the number of Covid cases have decreased. BBMP's chief commissioner Gaurav Gupta said that as per the Karaga committee's calendar, the rituals begin from April 8 with a car festival and conclude on April 18. Now the task for BBMP is to ensure Covid-Appropriate Behaviour.

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Bengalureans sing, Holi!

Children were seen drenched in tinted water and joy while playing Holi in the city on Friday. The city celebrated the occasion with much pomp. The sky was filled with vibrant colours thrown into the air as folks were seen dancing, singing and smearing the faces of their dear ones with colours.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

The goon monitor

South Division police to track legal proceedings of rowdy elements to ensure conviction

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The South Division police has initiated a system, court-monitoring cell, in each station in which cops will keep track of legal proceedings of charge-sheeted rowdy elements in the division.

At each station, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) or police sub-inspector (PSI) will be working on the updates of legal proceedings against rowdy elements in their police division and keenly follow up with them to make sure the cases move towards conviction.

According to sources, cases registered against rowdy elements are a headache for cops. Most times, during inquiries and investigation, cops find the accounts of eyewitnesses are inconsistent at the court. Many times, witnesses turn hostile which in turn helps the accused receive bail. Once out on bail, the rowdy elements are back to their disruptive ways.

The South Divison police introduced the system in its stations last week

As per the new system, the court-monitoring cell officer will be in touch with the public prosecutor to discuss case proceedings and prepare the eyewitnesses

Sources also said, over the past 14 years, the South Division police has seen more than 800 rowdy elements, a few of whom claimed to be reformed. However, the police, at present, has put around 663 rowdy elements under its radar.

A court-monitoring cell officer has to be in touch with the public prosecutor allocated to each case to discuss the case proceedings. The officer also needs to reassure the eyewitnesses, boost them with confidence, so they speak the truth bravely before the court.

"Many times, rowdy elements threaten witnesses, even their family members openly, with dire consequences and warn them not to appear before the court... getting scared due to intimidation, a number of witnesses turn hostile and... work in favour of the accused," said a senior police officer.

The system was introduced at each station last week after an accused person was convicted for seven years of imprisonment due to an attempt to murder. In the case, a cop attached to the police station started tracking the legal proceedings against the accused. The cop made sure the witnesses who had given their statements during the investigation appeared before the court and said the same. Enough evidence was also collected against the accused and the court sentenced him to seven years of imprisonment. Impressed with this, senior police officials mooted the idea of a court-monitoring cell.

CRAZY, STUPID, SMART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

option but to navigate through flickering lights or total darkness, frequently.

"The streetlights put up by BSCL on Queen's Road have not been working properly for over a month now. There are times when the lights stop working altogether. However, we do not know how to get these lights fixed. We reached out to the BBMP helpline number, but our request was declined as this is a stretch maintained by BSCL," said Thanmaya BP, a resident of the area.

According to residents, while Smart City engineers fixed the streetlights recently, issues keep cropping up at regular intervals.

"They fixed some of the lights in the last few days and it seems to be working fine for now. However, there have been days when the complete stretch, from Congress office to Balekundri Circle, goes dark for hours," said Suresh R, another resident.

Palace Road is yet another stretch facing a similar issue. Residents said while they have been directed to reach out to the BSCL officials for any maintenance-related affairs, it is not a viable and long-term solution.

"Streetlights on the stretch have not been working properly since they were installed over a month ago. Sometimes, not even a single light is on. When the stretch was under BBMP, every ward had its contractor's contact details made available in the public domain. BBMP's helpline number was also working smoothly. However, now when we call them, they refuse to register complaints saying it's not under their service area. Every time there is a street light issue, we cannot call up the chief engineer of the Smart City. BSCL is working on plenty of roads in the CBD area. It's high time they come up with a dedicated helpline for maintenance issues," said another resident.

Residents also complained about unkept medians and neglected gardens put up by BSCL for beautification. "Plants on the medians are dying in absence of water. Moreover, the BSCL contractors have carried out plantations without properly cleaning concrete left over in the medians. The saplings have been planted over debris and are not being watered now. While costly pedestrian space is being misused, we have no means to raise a complaint," said Susan P, another resident. Netizens said BSCL should hand over the maintenance work to BBMP, as the Palike already has a system in place, which has been working well.

"BSCL came into the picture to repair the roads and revamp other infrastructure. However, once the work is completed, they should hand it over to BBMP for upkeep. We would not want to have another layer of agency to reach out to for maintenance-related issues," said Thanmaya.

According to Vinayak Sugur, chief engineer of BSCL, soon, there will be a dedicated officer at BSCL to take up complaints and get the issues sorted at the earliest.

"Currently, we do not have any helpline system in place. However, we plan to have a dedicated officer to take care of such complaints from citizens to ensure they are taken care of," said Sugur.

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Fill in the blanks

Jayanagar

The sidewalk on 9th Main in 4th Block is missing slabs. It has been this way for a long time. Will the authorities concerned complete the pavement?

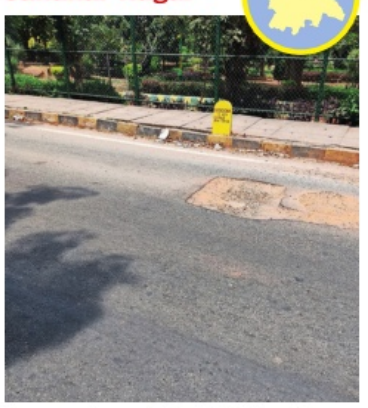
Safety first

Fraser Town

Roads in Fraser Town are blocked due to this construction work. BBMP must make way for senior citizens, children and residents to commute safely.

Level with us

Sahakar Nagar



Two spots on 13th Main Road require patchwork. The authorities concerned must level the road to prevent accidents.

Kanakapura Road a new favourite

To stay amid nature and close to major infra projects, property buyers are heading to the city's fringe

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Are you planning to stay at a place with a lot of greenery around and yet have access to major infrastructure projects, then your dream destination has to be near Kanakapura Road. Kanakapura Road is one of the key connecting roads from the city. Now, many of the property buyers are planning to stay in Kanakapura Road as it is only near the lap of nature but also visiting other areas is quite easier.

Devendra Kumar, who owns a property near Kaggalipura, said, "Thanks to the NICE Road, travelling has become easier. Earlier, I had to travel from my home towards the airport passing the city. But, now with NICE road, I can easily enter the expressway and exit at Tumkur Road and from there take the road to the airport. Similarly, reaching Electronics city is also quite easier."

Uma Nagaraj, who is a native of Mysuru and stays on Kanakapura Road said, "Kanakapura Road is an alternative road to Mysuru. Even today, many prefer to use this road to reach the heritage city. The road is filled with greenery as we cross villages and towns like Harohalli, Kanakapura, Halagur, Malavalli, Bannur and Mysuru. If this road is popularised as the second Mysore Road, a lot of traffic can take this route thereby reducing the density on the Mysore Road." Currently, with Mysore Road construction still going on, many are taking this route as well.

> **"In terms of traffic hassles, buying a property on Kanakapura Road means staying away from congestion but still very close to infrastructure**
>
> –Rajesh R, techie

The plots available in and around Kanakapura are such that it fits everyone's pocket. If you want to buy a premium plot with all the amenities, you have a number of options. Similarly, if you want to buy a plot suiting your budget, then a number of budget plots are available. Many real estate developers say that they offer free site visits so that the people can have a firsthand experience before buying the plots.

The other advantage of Kanakapura Road is the Metro network. Those who want to head out of the city can take NICE Road while those who want to travel inside the city can hop onto the Metro. The Metro is not just a green corridor (both in terms of line as well as energy) but also very swift. With the Metro network expanding in the city, it will help people using the Metro network in any part of the city to move to another part using the Metro trains. Many of these Metro trains are now providing ample parking lots so that people can park their vehicles at the Metro stations and then head to their destinations and while returning take back their vehicles.

The infrastructural access is helping people to move out to the city outskirts to buy a property. "In terms of traffic hassles, buying a property on Kanakapura Road means staying away from congestion but in terms of access to infrastructure, we are still very close," said Rajesh R, a techie.

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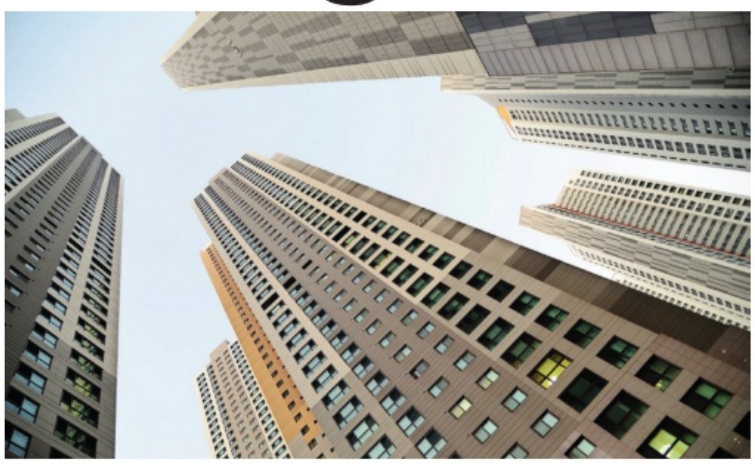
Nelamangala inching closer to city

More infra projects bridging the gap

Nelamangala is no longer farther to Bengaluru, thanks to a number of infrastructure projects. The Bengaluru-Nelamangala expressway has ensured that one can reach areas in and around Nelamangala in a matter of minutes. This is the reason people are now planning to shift to Nelamangala for staying and to reach the city for work. "It is difficult to buy a property in the city as it is very expensive. However, we can easily buy property in and around Nelamangala as we get a lot of offers. There are many property developers who have come up with excellent property at throw away prices. So, I have decided to relocate to Nelamangala so that I can buy a dream home with the money I have," said Kushal Gowda, a businessman.

Even the property buyers and developers agree that connectivity is the major plus point for the property buyers. Currently, the Metro network has been extended till Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) on Nelamangala Road while there is a plan to build Metro till Kadabagere on Magadi Road.

As the construction work is nearly complete, the BMRCL is now planning to throw open this project by next year. Once the Metro line is open, it will be easier for the locals to travel to Majestic, Kanakapura and Mysuru roads easily. As there are plans to connect the Metro network to the airport, the locals can take a train towards the airport as well. The Metro connection to Whitefield and Electronics City is also chugging along at a fast pace and hence the locals can take a train to their workplaces via Metro train. There are also plans to extend the Metro network from BIEC towards Nelamangala in the future phases.



Nelamangala, which was once considered as a distant suburb of Benglauru, is now turning out to be the prime location for property buyers. Many property buyers who plan to own a plot or build a house are now eyeing Nelamangala for various reasons. The realty developers of Nelamangala feel that the areas in north west of Bengaluru have a number of favourable factors which are attracting the property buyers.

The NICE Road is also a big plus point. BMTC is currently operating services via NICE Road, which is a big boon for the residents to head to Electronics City and Whitefield and this helps the people to avoid the city traffic to reach the tech campuses.

As Nelamangala is also connected by a train, now, many are taking trains to reach the city thereby avoiding the busy traffic roads. "If you stay in other parts of the city, you may not have so many commuting options to reach offices. So, we prefer Nelamangala as the next destination for buying properties", said Tejesh R, a techie.

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Guide to investing in hazard-free home

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Residents truly feel at home when they are assured that their living space is secure and supports safe living. Due to this, buyers need to make certain that their prospective home and residential area is equipped with all the measures that safeguard the health and security of its members. Given this, here are some tips on how buyers can determine whether a prospective property makes for a secure oasis.

Essential quality check

When it comes to prebuilt, ready-to-move-in homes, determining their consistency can be a challenging task for buyers. After all, a common homebuyer's ability to survey the quality of construction materials employed in a large-scale residential project or a house is limited. However, as per Rohit Poddar, managing director of a leading realty firm, buyers can employ several means to guarantee that the bathroom fittings, water pipelines and electrical wiring are of good quality and safe to use.

For this purpose, Poddar suggests, "The only way to examine the quality of sanitary ceramics and attachments such as toilets, basins or bidets is to look at their general appearance. Buyers should note that high-quality fittings should be simple to operate. In addition, they can tap softly around the fittings to look for cracks and check that the mounting surface is even and smooth, too. Additionally, buyers must examine the water flow alongside the types of faucets in use." Moreover, for future purposes, buyers must ascertain whether it will be convenient to repair or locate parts for bathroom fixtures. All these measures will allow buyers to make sure that their house is free from sanitary-related hazards.

Monsoon-safe home

In a city like Mumbai, monsoons usher in a host of problems for homeowners. Buyers can easily avoid such a situation with a few cautionary exercises. Ram Raheja, director of a leading Mumbai-based premium realty firm, recommends, "Buyers should ensure all safety protocols are in place alongside professional waterproofing of the house and the residential building, if applicable. This will prevent cracks and leakages within the building and the house during heavy rainfall. Also, seek help from an electrician to inspect the electrical systems in the house and guarantee maximum safety."

Another factor to consider is good ventilation, which is a must as the work-from-home scenario is here to stay. "Staying indoors for long periods can get gloomy during monsoons as there is less sunlight and the level of indoor air humidity begins to soar. Thus, buyers must look for effective ventilation in all rooms that enables a humidity-free healthy environment," explains Raheja.

Max security

Every resident wants their home to be safe from burglars and other miscreants in order to lead a stress-free life. Hence, security provisions in and around a house play an important role. For Tanmay Ingale, who recently moved to a residential community in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai, security measures at the entrance itself determine how safe it is to a large extent. "While looking for a new apartment, it was important for my family that all entry and exit points were properly secured by guards, along with clearly defined entry/exit procedures and CCTV coverage. Additionally, I reviewed the surveillance arrangements in the parking zone and basements, too," shares Ingale.

Citizens can also inspect the level of security technology installed at the premises. "Recent times have boosted the use of various digital safety devices which can lower one's risk of exposure to unsafe situations. Buyers have the option to consider properties that have a builtin smart security feature. As locks tend to stop working properly due to the excessive moisture in the air during monsoons, digital security systems make for a better option. Buyers can also consider video-enabled doorbells that let residents zoom in up to four megapixels and confirm the identity of the visitor," notes Poddar.

Source – Mumbai Mirror

Know all about occupancy certificate

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

An electronic billboard lights up the entrance of an under-construction luxury residential project in Mumbai announcing the countdown to the exact date that the home-buyers will receive the Occupancy Certificate (OC) from the developer and reside in their luxury apartment as legal home-owners. This brings the spotlight on the significance of an OC for both the developer and the home-buyer in a property deal.

What is OC

An OC is a legal certification that declares the building – residential or commercial – as ready for occupation. It is issued to the developer of a project by the local authority within 30 days, certifying that the building has been constructed according to the approved plans and is in compliance with all the provisions stated under the existing building bye-laws of the state. In fact, under Section 11 (4) (B) of the RERA Act, it is mandatory for a developer to obtain a completion/occupancy certificate from the local authority.

"Ideally, only after receiving the OC can people occupy the building as connection for civic amenities like water and electricity can be applied only once the OC is received. But in most cities, home-buyers occupy their flat before they receive the OC. Even while it is illegal, the practice has been quite prevalent," shares Santosh Kumar, vice-chairman, Anarock Group.

When an OC means credibility

The OC is a validation of the developer's commitment to the safety and security of the occupants.

Kumar posits, "For a builder today, it has become a badge of honour because it reflects his transparent and professional work ethics. It also proves that the developer has completed the project within the certified legal framework and thereby home-buyers can trust him. Given the increased awareness among home-buyers for many of such legal documents (of which they were earlier not very clear about), the OC thus conforms to the developers' professional work ethics. In many cases, a project with an OC has been far easier for the developer to sell than those without one because buyers now prefer an absolutely clear property."

To receive the OC, it is mandatory for the developer to submit a number of vital documents that include copies

of the building sanction plan; commencement certificate; no-objection certificate (NOC) from the fire department, pollution control board, airport authority if the property is in the vicinity of the airport; building completion certificate; property tax receipts; area calculation sheet of floors duly signed by a commissioned architect; photographs of the building after completion of construction of the solar panels, rainwater harvesting system, sewage treatment plant on the premises, etc.

Most importantly, a project without an OC is considered as 'under-construction' even if it is completed and ready to be occupied.

What does an OC mean to a buyer?

Having an OC from the developer offers you a host of benefits besides making you the legal owner of your property. Besides, it also works to your advantage if you plan to sell your home in future.

"A buyer must ideally get an OC from the concerned builder once construction is complete and ready to be occupied," points out Kumar. "Given that during property registration OC is not a mandatory document and has no linkage to the process, it ironically prompts buyers to consider OC to be of less significance. However, without an OC, the owners may sometimes be deprived of essential civic amenities like electricity and water. In worst cases, one can be evicted from the property, especially if the project has seriously faulted on the environmental rules. Hence, ideally buyers must ensure that builders give them the OC before they occupy the house. Most importantly, OC is a mandatory document for those buyers applying for a home loan. Alternately, those selling their ready property without an OC can't proceed if their prospective buyer is applying for a home loan as banks require this document," he adds. It is pertinent to note that without OC, the building is unsafe for occupation. In the event of an accident, the occupants can hold no one liable and would also not be eligible for any insurance claims.

OC for home loan and tax benefits

Nagesh Sharma, co-founder, MeraLoanDoctor, outlines the financial advantage of possessing an OC:

The OC is a necessary document to avail the most important income tax benefit, namely home loan interest and principal amount deductions from your income;

The OC is required to execute the 'conveyance deed' from the builder to the society or apartment association, without which the ownership rights continue to be with the builder;

Source – Times Property

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

GETTING BEE-SY

I spied a small movement on this petal on which, the sun fiercely beat down. I pointed the macro lens at the tiny creature in motion and found that a winged insect, hardly 5mm long, was recorded in sharp detail.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Smitha Rajshekar**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Madness & mayhem on Sarjapur Road

Commuters and residents want cops to manage the traffic more efficiently

Shreyashi Mukherjee
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For Bengalureans who daily use the routes adjacent to Columbia Asia Hospital at the beginning of Sarjapur Road, commuting is no less than a logistical nightmare. The traffic checkpoint which sees vehicles coming from Sarjapur and HSR and Iblur resembles a melee of cars, buses, two-wheelers all trying to move at once, and chaos reigns when the light goes green.

The traffic comes from Sarjapur Road takes a right turn towards Outer Ring Road while the traffic coming from HSR and Iblur takes a left turn. Vehicles coming from both these ways meet at this checkpoint. Other than this, there is another line of traffic which takes the service road bordering major IT companies.

The problem occurs when, at the green light sign, vehicles start moving together and the checkpoint turns chaotic. With bikes, cars, lorries and buses moving in a crisscross manner in all directions, the situation becomes even worse as the traffic police do not do much to alleviate the situation.

A commuter, who requested to be unnamed, said, "It is a complete mess. When the green light goes off, if one is not careful while driving, he/she will get into a terrible accident. Coming out of this route takes hours."

This route is also used by several school buses which get stuck for hours because of the heavy traffic. The commuters say that they have often witnessed risky situations that could have resulted in a dangerous accident. The fear that if they get stuck in this traffic once, it would be hours before they could move even by an inch.

Elangovan Kalidasan, a resident of the area, said that the only thing the traffic police needed to do was to ensure that they do not allow the traffic to move at once. "There is a separate signal for the traffic coming from Sarjapur that takes a right turn, so when that signal is green, they can allow vehicles from different directions to move taking turns. That would make the entire situation much better."

The residents say that they have requested the traffic police several times to take steps to manage the traffic better. However, no steps have been taken yet, they say.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are a true-blue Bengalurean, the name Blossom Book House will evoke happy memories. A reader's paradise, this store has proudly stood the test of time and boasts of a loyal patronage. From second-hand copies which are a delight for students, to rare, obscure dictionaries and encyclopedias, to exam preparation guides, you can get your hands on almost any book you wish for.

Opened in the year 2000 by Mayi Gowda, then a student studying electrical engineering in Bengaluru, the store was simply a means to supplement his income. Today, it is an emotion to most.

Step inside the store that has the musky smell of old pages and you are immediately transported into a slower, quieter world, far different from the bustle of Church Street and beyond, and the air inside the narrow aisles with towering shelves almost seems magical.

In an age where book stores find it difficult to keep up with the times, Blossom Book House is symbolic of Bengaluru and its eternal love story with books.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How can Bengalureans come together and help preserve water?

Kirthi BD, engineer
Water bills and prices should be increased so that people think twice before spending water in excess. One should avoid wasting water while washing cars and other vehicles. Leakage of water from tanks should be avoided on roads.

Bushan Gowda, BTech student
Washing the vehicles with bucket water and not pipes, collecting water during rain by placing tubs on the terrace or balcony and installing water-flow restrictors can be a few steps one can take.

Akash V Ramaiah, Engineering student
Conserving water techniques can include taking a shower for lesser time, fixing leaky taps, planting plants or trees which require less water, and not wasting water during festivals.

Nischay Gowda, BM reader
Water bottles should be avoided to curb plastic and many waste water too. Instead, water capsules can be carried. One should only run the washing machine and dishwasher when it is completely full. Leaks should be fixed.

Peria Swamy, BM reader
I wish residents practice rainwater preservation strictly; Bangalore residents have a lot of ideas that are practical as well. One can use pipes to connect the rainwater to separate from the sump and utilise them for different purposes.

SPEAK TO US

What is that one activity you associate fondly with Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

The modern drape

Some new stylish ways to wear the sari

Draping our favourite saris gives us immense joy, but we often tire wearing it the same way time and again. Here are some celebrity drapes to up your style game:

The Mumtaz
This retro style was made popular by actor Mumtaz and is a great festive look for a sexy chiffon saree with a bling border.

The Cape Drape
A matching cape teamed with a sari is draping technique which adds pizazz to your look. Choose your desired saree and look for a cape that has been stitched so that you can dress it up.

The Pant-Saree
Saree pants are a trendy look that we can't get enough of. It's chic and neutral, and it's aimed at fashionistas who want to stand outs.

The Angrakha Drape
Inspired by Mughal garments, this striking way of draping a Royal Angrakha is not only in fashion but stunning!

Dhoti Style
Drape Not only does a dhoti drape look great with winter blazers and jackets, its a comfortable and high fashion way to glam up a look.

Neck Wrap Style
You can wrap the pallu around your neck or wear it like a trendy scarf. Combine this with a handwoven piece to give the saree a modern twist.

The Belted Drape
All you need for this look is a statement belt to cinch your waist. It adds a modern and edgy twist to the traditional saree look.

—IANS

What's in this summer

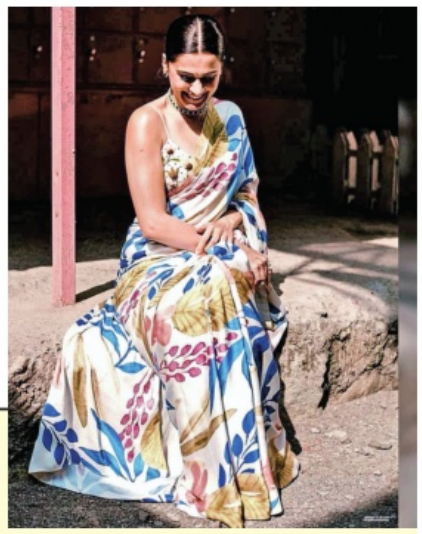
Keeping up with the warm months ahead, we've rounded up some styles to add to your summer wardrobe.

Pastel power: Summers are for cool tones and flowy silhouettes. You can pair it with minimal gold accessories and dewy make-up.

Elegant embellishments: Go for bright colours, with much detailing on the sari and a striking blouse. Depending on the scale of the occasion, you can style embroidered pieces with heavy jewellery or keep it simple.

Something light: Whether it's a crisp shirt, a lush embroidered lehenga or a pristine sari, white is always right.

Print game strong: If big and bold prints define your personality, then go for it! You can pair it with dainty emerald jewellery



Very Peri: Very Peri has been named the main colour for 2022. The dynamic periwinkle blue hue with a violet-red undertone is the IT colour to sport this season.

Hearty Handlooms: From chanderis and banarasis to silks and bandhanis, handwoven saris always look so elegant. This look is a winner, especially with a coordinated sheer blouse.

Pre-draped: For those of you who have still not perfected the art of draping, pre-stitched saris are your best bet. They are practical, comfy and chic.

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Man attempts suicide in front of CM at Janata Darshan

High drama prevailed at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's 'Janata Darshan' programme on Friday when an elderly man attempted to consume poison alleging police atrocity.

The man has been identified as Chandrashekar, a resident of Sunkadakatte in Bengaluru. According to the police, Chandrashekar attended the 'Janata Darshan' programme near the chief minister's RT Nagar residence and submitted a complaint against the police department stating that he had been meted out injustice and threatened by the police.

He claimed that the police, in collusion with others, cheated him of lakhs of rupees in connection with sale of his site. He directly made allegations against the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police inspector and pleaded CM Bommai to give him justice. He maintained that though he had submitted many complaints nothing was done.

At one point, he took out a bottle containing poison and made an attempt to drink it in the presence of Chief Minister Bommai. Police present on the spot rushed to stop him. The police then took him with them and inquired about the issue. Later, CM Bommai gave directions to investigate the matter.

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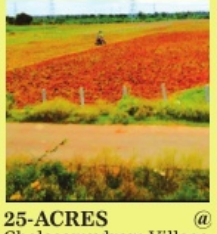

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRAKASHA SHEKHARAPPA, S/o Late. Shekharappa, residing at No. 2, Chikkegowda Building, 1st Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Near Chitrakoota School, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore-560056, have changed my name to PRAKASH SHEKHARAPPA, vide affidavit dated 10.03.2022, sworn before notary Ravi, Bangalore.

I, Shivani Gupta W/o Gaurav Gupta R/o # 65, Laughing Waters, Ramagondanahalli Post, Whitefield Main Road Bengaluru-560066 have Changed my Minor Daughter's Name From Aadya Gupta to Aadyaa Gupta, Affidavit Dt.18/03/2022 Notary N Nagappa, B'luru.

I, Harshvardan Kantharaju, R/a No 45 Venkteshwara Layout 1st Cross Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore 560079. have changed my name to HARSHVARDHAN KANTHARAJU Vide affidavit Dated on : 16.03.2022. Sworn before notary : R Basavaraja

I, Chaithra D/o Mallikarjun Kathirki R/o No.1, Kodigehalli main road, Nagashettyhalli, RMV Extn, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560094 have changed my name to CHAITHRA KATHIRKI affidavit Dt.17/03/2022 notary P.N Nagesha, B'luru.

I, Jayashree Davanam Ramanan W/o D.R Ramanan, R/o No.3358/A, 13th main road, near hop coms, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to JAYASHREE RAMANAN affidavit Dt.16/03/2022 notary Muneer.A, B'luru.

I, Sidharth Nandlal S/o Nandlal Arjandas, R/o Flat.L-001, 10/3, Pentine Home, Serpentine Road, K.P west, Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to SIDHARTH NANDLAL BATHIJA affidavit Dt.16/03/2022, notary Muneer. A, B'luru.

I, Ruksana W/o Md Dastagir R/o No 31, Masjid Street, Munigowda Garden, Neelsandra, Bengaluru 560047, have changed my name to Syeda Ruksana, Affidavit Dt.18/03/2022 Notary N Nagappa, B'luru.

I, AKASH V S/o M. Savitha resident of No.39/12, 5th Cross, Cholur Palya, Bangalore-560023 have changed my name to AKASH S SURYA vide affidavit dated 18.03.2022 before notary C.K Anupama, Bangalore-09.

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The successful state of teleconsultations

e-Sanjeevani portal doing well in Karnataka with over 43 lakh free consultations

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The central government run e-Sanjeevani portal launched in 2019 is going on well in Karnataka which is carrying out a large number of teleconsultations. The state has carried out over 43,26,490 free online consultations till date, benefitting a large number of rural and urban population in the state.

The initiative started by the Union Health Ministry, aimed at providing healthcare advice to people in their homes through an app-based platform. Free OPD health consultations to people, even in remote areas, on a hub and spoke model has helped a large number of people. So far, 21,68,354 consultations have been carried out through the HUB and Spoke model while 21,58,136 patients consultations were done in the OPD model.

Where online consultations were hardly used in the past, now it is a rising trend, during the time of pandemic. Online consultations started by the government turned out to be a blessing for many, as one could reach out to the health professionals just by sitting at home, through the app and get the required treatment.

Most of all it being free worked wonders for the low income groups.

Consultations cover a wide range of specialities, which include psychiatry, cardiology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, neurology, ENT, dentistry are all available for the teleconsultation. The patients through the app can also add their prescriptions or other reports for doctors reference.

The state has carried out over 43,26,490 free online consultations till date

“Rural population now have doorstep access to the specialist care.It avoids out of pocket expenditure & unnecessary travel

–Health Commissioner Randeep D

Health Commissioner Randeep D said, “There are 4,540 doctors who are registered in the state to provide teleconsultations. Over 82 hospitals are providing specialist online consultations as Hub, 997 hospitals are providing general consultations and 4,954 health facilities act as spokes.” The rural population is said to have benefitted largely through the tele consultations. “It benefits them tremendously. Rural population now have doorstep access to the specialist care.It avoids out of pocket expenditure & unnecessary travel. Follow-up care and monitoring of NCD patients and elderly patients is possible.”

In the recent weekly top performance conducted between March 7 to 14, of districts with highest usage of esanjeevani, 12 districts excelled, including Bengaluru Urban. Raichur was at the top most with 119% coverage, second Belgavi with 114%, Shivamogga next on the list at 96.17% and Ramnagar and Bengaluru Urban at 94%. Other districts like Chitradurga, Mandya, Tumakuru, Uttar Kannada, Dharwad also fared well.

Catch up

Amongst the weekly performance districts, Mysuru had 16%, while Dakshina Kannada and Koppal with 24% and 29% each. Bengaluru Rural, Vijaypura, Gadag, Bida, Chikkaballpura, Kolar , Chamrajnagar also need to buck up.

However, as a whole the free teleconsultation service has been increasing both in rural and urban areas. “An average of 15,000 to 17,000 teleconsultations are been utilised by rural population and urban population.” added Randeep.

Capgemini to hire over 60,000 employees in India in 2022

French technology firm Capgemini will look at adding about 60,000 new employees in India this year – higher than it did in 2021 – as demand for digital-led solutions rise, its CEO Ashwin Yardi has said.

“We are globally about 325,000 employees and half of them are in India, and we continue to see good headcount growth,” Yardi told ET. The new hires will be a mix of fresher hiring and lateral talent, with a focus on emerging areas like 5G and quantum, he said.

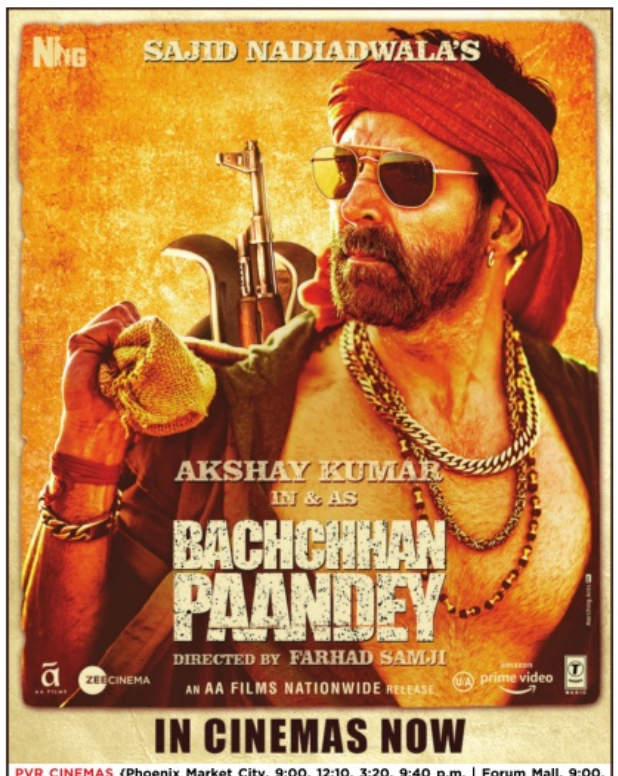
Capgemini had launched a 5G lab in India last year in partnership with Ericsson. It is seeing a lot of traction, Yardi said. “We’ve been working with some of the global and Indian service providers to build industry use cases on 5G,” he said.

Capgemini in India grew faster than the reported growth for the group in 2021, and Yardi said the demand outlook for the rest of the year remained strong, fuelling the hiring drive.

The company has also put in place a series of initiatives like quarterly promotion cycles and partnerships with educational institutes to create specific skills.

Last month, Aiman Ezzat, group CEO of Capgemini, had said that going forward, India would play a bigger role in managing operations for the firm. It would also look at developing leaders in India who could then go on to lead teams globally, he had said.

– Priyanka Sangani, ETtech



PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Market City, 9:00, 12:10, 3:20, 9:40 p.m. | Forum Mall, 9:00, 11:50, 12:10, 6:20, 6:30, 9:40 p.m. | Arena Mall, 9:10, 12:20, 6:40, 9:50 p.m. | Orion Mall, 9:10, 3:15, 3:30, 6:40, 9:45, 9:50 p.m. | Orion Uptown Mall, 9:00, 12:10, 9:50 p.m. | MSR Regalia Mall, 9:20, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 p.m. | Spirit Mall, 9:10, 6:30, 9:40 p.m. | VR Mall, 9:10, 11:30, 12:20, 2:40, 6:40, 9:00, 9:50 p.m. | Vaishnavi Saphire Mall, 9:10, 12:20, 3:30, 9:50 p.m. | Vega City Mall, 9:00, 9:20, 12:10, 12:30, 3:40, 6:30, 6:50, 9:40, 10:00 p.m. | The Cinema @ GT Mall, Magadi Road, 9:10, 6:30, 9:40 p.m. | The Aura, Whitefield, 12:30, 9:30 p.m.} | INOX {Garuda Mall, 9:10, 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00 p.m. | Swagath Mall, 9:10, 3:20, 6:35, 9:50 p.m. | Central Mall, JP Nagar, 9:20, 12:30, 3:45, 6:40, 9:50 p.m. | Lido, 9:00, 12:15, 6:55, 10:00 p.m. | Forum Value Mall, 9:00, 3:30, 6:35, 9:40 p.m. | Mantri Mall, 9:40, 12:45, 6:55, 10:00 p.m. | Brookefield Mall, 9:00, 3:30, 6:35, 10:00 p.m. | SBR Horizon, 9:00, 12:15, 6:45, 10:00 p.m. | Garuda, Yelahanka, 9:10, 12:20, 6:50, 9:50 p.m. | Galleria Mall, RMZ Yelahanka, 9:00, 3:35, 9:45 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Royal Meenakshi Mall, 9:45, 12:40, 6:50, 9:55 p.m. | ETA Mall, 9:30, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 9:50 p.m. | Orion East Mall, 9:00, 12:05, 6:25, 9:30 p.m. | Shantiniketan, 9:30, 12:35, 3:40, 6:45, 8:05, 9:50 p.m. | SJR Spectrum Mall, 9:30, 12:35, 6:45, 9:50 p.m. | Sigma Mall, 9:20, 6:55, 10:00 p.m.} | GOPALAN {Innovation Mall, 10:30, 2:15, 7:00 p.m. | Arcade Mall, 12:45, 6:45 p.m. | Signature Mall, 4:15, 9:30 p.m. | Grand Mall, 10:30, 3:30, 7:00 p.m. | Legacy Mall, 9:45, 2:15, 6:45, 10:00 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX {Marathahalli, 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | ROCKLINE MALL | KINO THEATRE {Seegehalli Road} | BALAJI CINEMAS {Chikkakallasandra, 2 Shows} | SRINIVASA {S G Palya, 1:00, 7:00 p.m.} | SWAGATH ONYX SHANKARNAG {M. G. Road, 1:40, 10:00 p.m.} | SWAGATH POORNIMA THEATRE {1:15, 7:00 p.m.} | SWAGATH MURALI {1:00, 7:00 p.m.} | SWAGATH AMRUTH {1:30, 7:00 p.m.} | SANDHYA THEATRE {1:00, 4:00 p.m.} | ANAND THEATRE {Tanny Road, 4 Shows} | ABHINAY THEATRE {K G Road, 10:00, 1:00, 4:00 p.m.} | BHUMIKA THEATRE {7:30, 9:30 p.m.} | MUKTA A2 CINEMAS {Uttarahalli} | SANTOSH {RPC Layout, 4 Shows} | SHOBHA THEATRE {Bapujinagar, 4 Shows} | SOBAGU THEATRE {Doddaballapuura, 2 Shows} | SRI RAMA CHITRMANDIRA {Ramanagara, 2 Shows} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Mangalore, 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00 p.m. | Manipal, 9:00, 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | Shivamoga, 10:45, 1:30, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | Kundapura, 10:00, 4:00, 10:00 p.m.} | DRC MULTIPLEX {Mysore, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | MYSORE VISION CINEMAS {Myosre, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00 p.m.} | MYSORE LIDO {Mysore, 2 Shows} | SRI BALAJI DELUXE THEATRE {Mysore, 4 Shows} | CINEPOLIS {City Centre Mall, Mangalore, 9:40, 1:20, 3:45, 9:50 p.m.} | PVR CINEMAS {Fiza Mall, Mangalore, 9:10, 12:20, 6:40, 9:50 p.m. | Forum Mall, Mysore, 8:40, 3:00, 6:10, 9:20 p.m. | Garuda Mall, Mysore, 3:00, 9:20 p.m.} | INOX {Central, Manipal, 9:40, 12:45, 6:55, 10:00 p.m. | Satyam Mall, Mysore, 9:30, 3:50, 6:55, 9:00 p.m. | S Mall, Tumkur, 9:00, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00 p.m.} | MOVIETIME {Davangere, 10:00 a.m., 7:30 p.m.} | TRINETRA THEATRE {Davangere, 3 Shows} | KRISHNA THEATRE {Tumkur, 4 Shows} | MYLARA CINEMA {Tumkur, 4 Shows} | MAHAVEER THEATRE {Mandya, 4 Shows} | PRITHVI THEATRE {Hassan, 4 Shows} | RADHIKA THEATRE {Bellary, 4 Shows} | MANJUNATHA {Shivamoga, 4 Shows} | SP {Mangalore, 4 Shows} | DIANA THEATRE {Udupi, 4 Shows}.

FOR ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATION IN SHOW TIMINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE THEATRE

farnazfever

What is a qualitative offence?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

considerable visible change in the quality of safe traffic movement.

Another important qualitative offence the BTP is focusing on to check is the entry of Heavy Transport Vehicles (HTV) into the city during prohibited hours.

“Our men on enforcement duty in the Central Business District (CBD) area and its surroundings, have been booking violations against several HTV vehicles carrying construction materials during prohibited hours inside the city; by this we are visibly seeing smooth movement of traffic along with law abiders,” the DCP added.

“At present, traffic police are instructed not to press for vehicle documents knowing that everything would be available in digi-lockers, nor question other quantitative traffic offences such as defective number plate, shrill horn, absence of mirrors,

The around 20 Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras temporarily installed at strategic locations in the CBD and surroundings are helping with policing

riding/driving without tail light, defective silencer and such,” Jain noted.

Another senior officer said that with the help of around 20 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras temporarily installed at strategic locations in the CBD and surroundings, it has become convenient for the cops to flag down specific vehicles that have repeated violations.

ANPR cameras read all the number plates on the screen and check if there are any previous violations and segregate the list of vehicles that have more than five offences pending, before alerting the closest enforcement team.

“Personnel would flag down vehicles only from that list and request the rider/driver to pay up the fine amounts,” added the officer.

The 20 ANPRs have been given away to 20 traffic police stations in the CBD area and surroundings, and placed in strategic temporary locations, relocating the cams frequently as the cops learnt of late that some ‘smart’ offenders avoid such signals knowing there are live cameras.

BTP has been instructed about a few other qualitative offences, keeping in mind the safety of pedestrians, such as no parking, footpath parking, footpath riding, etc., which will be booked in large numbers across the traffic police stations in and around the CBD area.

Get set for a buffer safari at Nagarahole

If all goes to plan, wildlife enthusiasts can go on a safari in Tiger Reserve buffer zone from May; this is likely to ease traffic in core areas

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Trap cameras at reserve forests allow close observation

The Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is all set to become the first reserve in Karnataka to have a safari in the buffer zone. According to the Nagarhole forest officials, the long-awaited proposal to introduce buffer zone tourism has finally received the government's nod. And if all goes to plan, the safari will be up and running in a couple of months from now.

Notably, the forest department had sent a proposal to the Chief Conservator of Forest, seeking permission to start the safari. "We have received the approvals recently and are in the planning phase to establish the infrastructure. Currently, we are processing the detailed project report and will soon be calling for the tenders. If things go as per the plan, the safari will be available for the wildlife enthusiasts by the first week of May," said Mahesh Kumar, director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.

Officials say that the main aim of the buffer zone safari is to reduce pressure from the core area of the tiger reserve. As per the National Tiger Conservation Authority guidelines, tourism activities in the core areas of any tiger reserve should be negligible. This ensures better conservation and viability of the tiger population.

"Tiger conservation has two major components. While the core zone of a tiger reserve is expected to be an inviolate area to ensure successful tiger breeding, the buffer zone serves as a shock absorber. With the introduction of buffer zone tourism, there will be less stress on the core zone. The core area will now focus on habitat management and conservation activities. While we do have ecotourism in the core zone currently, we aim to bring it down gradually so that there is minimum human interference," said a senior official.

At Nagarhole, currently, ecotourism is happening only in the core zone. Forest officials say that while they plan to reduce this activity in the core region significantly, immediate removal is not viable as it will impact the livelihood of many stakeholders in and around the area.

"We cannot bring down the core zone activities immediately. With so many stakeholders involved, even a gradual cut down of the activities will be a challenge," added Mahesh Kumar.

The buffer zone tourism initiative will also give a livelihood to villagers and the tribal population in the area. "At least around 30-50 members will be employed in the first leg of the project. As of now, we are planning to start only the jungle safari. While we do have scope for other nature-based activities, we need to examine the pros and cons of expanding the project. The area is rich in wildlife with tigers, elephants, leopards, sloth bears and some other animals too, making activities such as nature walks and day hikes challenging. We will expand the scope gradually," said Mahesh Kumar.

"With buffer zone tourism, there will be less stress on the core zone. The core can focus on habitat management and conservation
–Official, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

Water meter checks in Mysuru

The Mysuru City Corporation will keep a count of each litre of water in the city and keep a check on illegal, unauthorised connections and non-working meters. The connections with non-working meters will attract double the charges and illegal water connections will be disconnected.

The water supplied to the city through the river is 270 MLD, but only 160 MLD of water is accounted for. So, about 110 MLD of water is unaccounted for. This is due to illegal water usage and sometimes the water meters do not work. Now, officials have decided crack down on these. The officials will start operation from the month of April.

There are more than 50,000 connections in the city with defucnt meters. They have been given two weeks to correct their meters. They have to fix the meter and submit the details to the office of the City Corporation. If not they will be charged double the fee. The officials will disconnect the water supply and underground drainage connections for those who are having illegal connections and also impose fines.

Mysuru City Mayor Sunanda Palanetra said, "Corporation has taken two important decisions about mobilising the revenue to the corporation and water management. These will be implemented from April." Vanivilas Water Supply Corporation's officer Suvarna A to stop water wastage,

Heat is on those with faulty meters or illegal connections

they will impose a double fee for non-working meters and disconnecting illegal connections from next month. "There are 1,62,815 official connections and 22,000 illegal connections. The officials visit each and every house," she said.

Prakash VL

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at c-rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

Nature of encroachment

Encroachment of the commons is one of the first activities to resume post pandemic across Bengaluru. Continuity of sidewalks is a reality perhaps only in parts such as Mahatma Gandhi Road and surrounding areas in the central business district. Beyond a 5-7 km radius from the city centre, oftentimes it is a recurring give-and-take tussle between various contenders for space — builders, street vendors, vehicles, free-roaming stray animals and what have you. And, of course, the real keeper of this common, the pedestrian, has no say in the upkeep of footpaths; forget about reclamation.

Street vendors and stray animals one could gladly cherish but when residential or commercial complexes under construction or even hospitals push the pedestrian onto the main roads on a hot summer day, encroaching the sidewalk, it is time to demand from the authorities the bare necessities.

A visit to a fledgling suburb shall leave you aghast at the level of blatant encroachment of public spaces and the almost criminal sense of entitlement of the encroacher. Such is the nature of encroachment and encroacher as citizens stay withdrawn and authorities turn a blind eye, a bit here and a bit there of what is rightfully the citizen's — taxes-paid and guaranteed — the encroacher gnaws at, till you realise that a major part of the common is occupied.

Likewise, today, an individual's mind-space is being encroached upon, in our over-glorified tech-driven discourse. If you call this madness, societal discourse, that is, where educational institutions are issuing diktats to staff and students to attend propaganda screenings.

And, after all, how long will you blather about the good of tech while diabolic online engagements tear apart the social fabric?

Unfortunately, the 'technocalyptic' discourse is now upholding and openly campaigning for war, conjuring up governments that toe the line of global business magnets, propping up oppressive regimes — and, aha! technological wonders, you say.

A real technological wonder is the International Space Station (ISS) that circumnavigates the globe at over 27,000 km ph at an altitude of about 400 km above us, the existence of which, the Russian president said, the ongoing battle could very well jeopardise. The space station is a testimony to post war collaboration of the world order that not only salvaged civilisation out of a wretched war's shadow but forged greater consensus amongst great world powers in science and tech — it is not as flimsy and puerile as status updates on social media, you see.

This drivel online, day in and day out, on mobile phones, tablets and office computers, that fails to address or even acknowledge imminent dangers the post pandemic world is confronting while propagating hatred for one another and profiteering on the go, is the definitive encroachment of human minds.

Meta's declared policy to endorse violence against Russians or not censor open calls on its platforms to subject citizens of that country to harm is indeed a tipping point for global democracy and in fact an encroachment of set human values. Robust democracies are not guided by online echo chambers or war games simulated by third parties/mercenaries for most paying state actors.

The underlying motif here is the encroachment of what is the citizen's rights in a democracy. The question is how far the powers that be in collusion with big tech go on trampling upon human values in the garb of freedom of expression in the so-called 'world with no boundaries'.

How skewed this freedom of expression is slowly but clearly coming into view, in what surely is a signal for salvaging democratic discourse the world over that has veered off the course since the noughties, thanks to the collective's failure to play watchdog and the obsession to be lost in selfies.

The undercurrents of hypocrisy and bigotry could not be more out in the open than now as the Russia-Ukraine drama plays to a full house where rules are set on the go, exposing the true nature of so-called west. Selective memory of the powerful and utmost disregard of cultures or even varied ways of life, apart.

In the absence of just and humane internationalism for emerging economies to take a leaf out of, tyranny manifests. That is why we hardly hear the news of the state's youth leading in deaths by suicide due to joblessness while we are repeatedly told 'hijab' is the most critical talking point at the moment.

Tech can be manipulated to encroach upon citizens' rights. Large democracies like ours are all the more vulnerable as we are caught in the flux — essentially a dilemma of development and social ruin. As social tech is increasingly turning out to be a vehicle for furthering propaganda, emerging economies of the global south should be on guard so as to protect cultural ethos and safeguard democratic values.

HEALTH TIP: According to WHO, consuming high amounts of red meat can increase chances of getting colorectal cancer

Cashews lower cholesterol levels and reduce blood pressure, thus lowering the risk of cardiovascular disease

BangaloreMirror | 13
Saturday, March 19, 2022
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Keep calm with ashtanga yoga

Learn steps and benefits of this 'life changing' exercise reviewed by an expert

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Ashtanga, Sanskrit for eight-limbed (ashta - eight, anga- limb), is an eight-limbed path towards achieving the state of yoga, also known as Samadhi. Explaining further, Yoga practitioner and trainer Dr Shilpa Patel says, "Ashtanga yoga practice is life-changing; from improved physical strength and flexibility to boosting mental wellbeing, it gives you 360-degree health benefits."

Benefits

- Improves flexibility over time, as with most forms of yoga
- Increases strength
- Increases muscle tone
- Improves cardiovascular fitness
- Reduces body fat
- Reduces stress and anxiety
- Increases focus and creativity
- Lowers blood pressure

Steps

As they were originally composed, the eight steps of Ashtanga yoga are called Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana, and Samadhi. Dr Patel explains each of these in detail.

Yama

The first step of Ashtanga yoga is Yama or restraint. There are five restraints as per Patanjali – Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), Asteya (no stealing), Brahmacharya (discipline in sex), and Aparigraha (no coveting). These five virtues are essential for purifying the mind as only a pure mind can remain steady.

Niyama

While Yama is about staying away from certain things and practices and is concerned with one's interaction with society, Niyamas are observances or habits one must adhere to for purifying the body. Of all Ashtanga yoga steps, this one is concerned with one's own self.

Asana

The most popular part of Ashtanga yoga steps – Asana, is sequenced as the third one in the yoga sutras of Patanjali. "The reason it's the most popular is that it caters to the glamorous culture of the modern fitness industry which is solely focused on the physical form," says Dr Patel.

Asana practice is popularly known as Hatha yoga, the physical training system, primarily renowned for the benefits it offers. Contrarily, Ashtanga yoga advocates yoga asanas to calm down involuntary body movements and agitations due to impurities in nerve channels. These can be a deterrent to your efforts to steady the physical body while you attempt to concentrate on meditation as your highest goal.

Pranayama

Respiratory movements can also distract a mind that is attempting to calm down. Moreover, respiratory movements are directly related to the mind, so the slower and subtler the respiration, the calmer the mind. Once you achieve physical steadiness by practising asana, practice pranayama to tame your respiratory movements and purify your psychic channels.

Pratyahara

Meaning 'drawing the senses away from objects', Pratyahara is about controlling the senses as these are the windows to the external world. Your senses feed your mind with sensations they receive from objects they perceive. When the mind receives an overdose of sensory impulses, it will remain engrossed and puzzled in interpreting and responding to the impulses. Pratyahara involves learning how to get the mind to exercise command over the senses and not vice versa, which is crucial to successful meditation.

Dharana

After the mind is free from the senses, comes the step of Dharana or concentration. This is about tying the mind to one object so it doesn't wander from one to the other aimlessly. Concentration is known to multiply the power of the mind, empowering it to achieve higher goals.

Dhyana

Dhyana refers to meditation or concentration on related thoughts. Once you teach yourself how to concentrate on a single object, dhyana or meditation takes over on its own and you will feel the seamless flow of thoughts.

Samadhi

Here's where the object and the mind become one; Samadhi is the continuation of the state of concentration. In this step, the consciousness of the physical body disappears, with the mind becoming like the object. Consequently, the object loses form and appears like a bright light that possesses the mind.

Precautions

Ashtanga yoga is one of the most physically challenging forms of yoga. The most traditional form of Ashtanga yoga steps involves a very long sequence of postures with a vinyasa (rest) in between each. This makes Ashtanga yoga very demanding in terms of strength and stamina. It can be even more difficult to complete Ashtanga yoga steps in a warm room packed with other people.

Tip: Always speak to your doctor or an expert before starting any new fitness regimen.

Reviewed by Dr Shilpa Patel

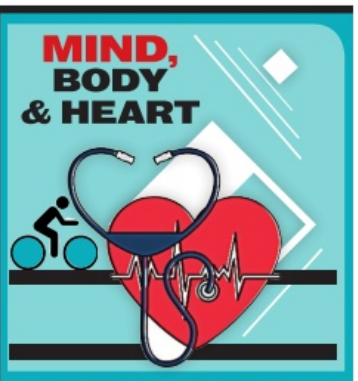
FAQS

Can I lose weight with Ashtanga yoga?

- **Apart from the health benefits mentioned earlier, like an increase in strength and flexibility, Ashtanga yoga steps also boost metabolism and calorie burning, thus facilitating weight loss.**

How often should I practice Ashtanga yoga steps?

- **Even if you're a beginner, five or six days per week is recommended for Ashtanga yoga. Taking only a few days off weekly will help your body rest adequately. Women should rest for up to three days during menstruation. Remember to do your practice at the same time each day**



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

Recently, I found out that my ex-boyfriend died suddenly and it's completely messed my head up. We dated for eight years and it was a serious relationship - we lived together and even talked about marriage, but I had an affair and that was the end of things. We kept in touch but I hadn't seen him since we broke up, which was five years ago, and I know he was with someone else and he was apparently happy. I feel upset and also guilty somehow, and I'm struggling to work out why I'm taking it so badly. We'd moved on from each other and I don't think there were any regrets on either side.
I'd love your opinion on how to cope with these feelings.

COLEEN SAYS

He's still someone you loved who was a big part of your life for eight years. I'd be more worried if you didn't feel anything. I wouldn't feel guilty about what happened in your relationship – that's life – and he'd moved on and found happiness with someone else. I think when anyone dies, the temptation is to think back to when you'd had a row. I had a huge argument with my sister Bernie a couple of years before she died and I found myself revisiting that, thinking how petty it seemed after she was gone. I had to remind myself there was a reason for it at the time and that we'd also patched up our differences and were very close. There's nothing wrong with how you're feeling. Your ex's death has brought up lots of memories for you and, even though you hadn't seen each other for years, you knew he was there and now he's not. You're grieving and it takes time to process.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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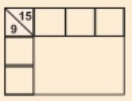
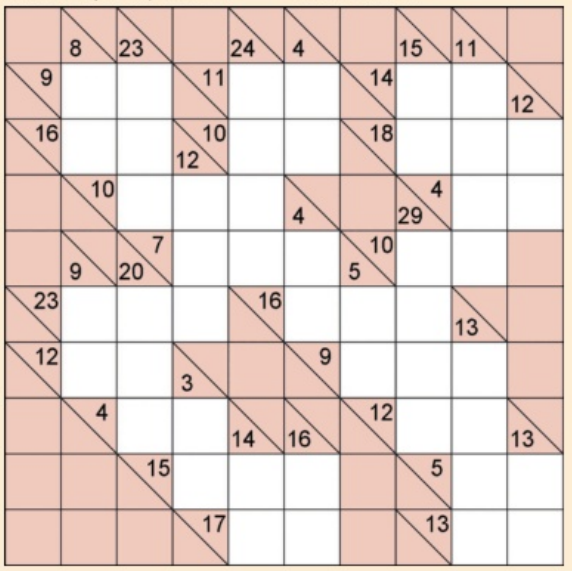
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

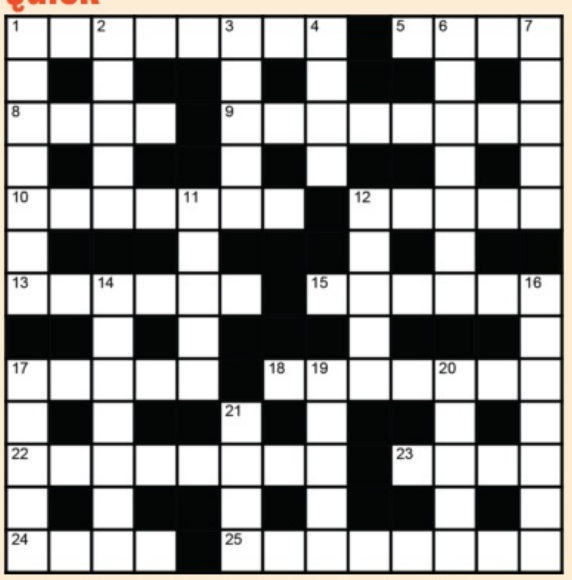


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Cause to explode (8)
5 Greek colonnade (4)
8 Animal skin (4)
9 Getting even with (8)
10 Yield; surrender (7)
12 Pythias's bosom pal (5)
13 Evening meal (6)
15 Support or sustain? (4,2)
17 Devoutness (5)
18 Senior clergyman (7)
22 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
23 Norse god (4)
24 ___ a bet : deposits as a wager? (4)
25 Salvaging or saving (8)

DOWN

1 Illustrates, portrays or symbolises (7)
2 Claw (5)
3 First name in Indian chess (5)
4 Organs of sight (4)
6 Cut or lopped (7)
7 Inert gas of helium family (5)
11 Former Arsenal head coach Unai ___ (5)
12 Former India skipper (5)
14 Elvis of music (7)
16 Pre-Euro German coin (7)
17 Student (5)
19 A puzzle in picture form? (5)
20 One of the As of AAP (5)
21 Smear (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS T

PUBXOZC OR OLSVXOJVR
VLDKRR OZ UKDER ZUK
XKPOEOKLZ ZJ GKPJWK
OLQKEKLQKLZ JM OZ.

Linemaro

The chameleon can focus its eyes separately to watch two objects at once

Mindchow

Growing old is inevitable, growing up is an option

Joke of the day

Q: Why do gorillas have big nostrils?
A: Because they have big fingers

Loop

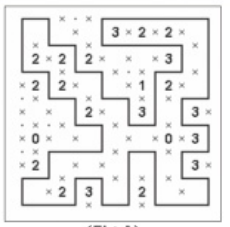
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

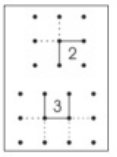
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

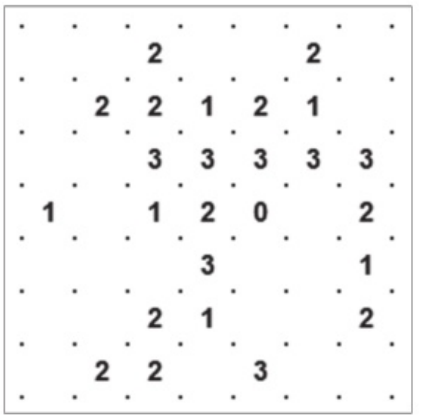
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



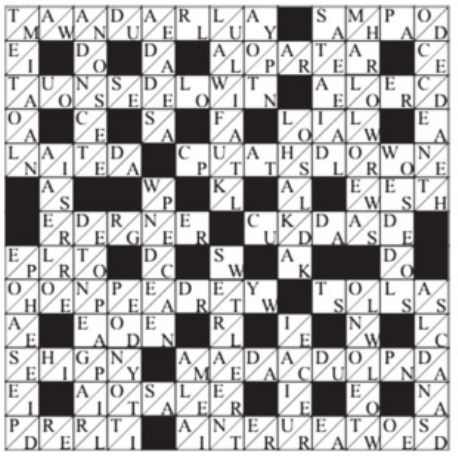
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



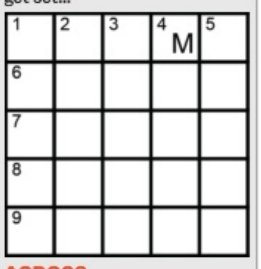
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

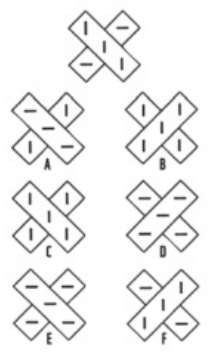
1 Cuss M; 6 Atman;
7 A seer; 8 Sigma;
9 Sores

DOWN

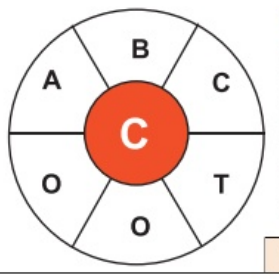
1 Reams; 2 Go car;
3 In USA; 4 Seams;
5 St ems

Mensapuzzle

If the figure below were held in front of a mirror, which of the figures, A, B, C, D, E or F, would be reflected?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

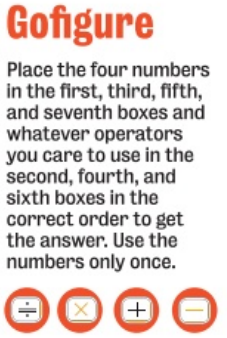
SudokuChallenge

	2						1	
8			4		3			9
		7	1		9	8		
		1	2		7	3		
	3						6	
		8	9		6	7		
		3	7		2	1		
9			5		1			4
	6						8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

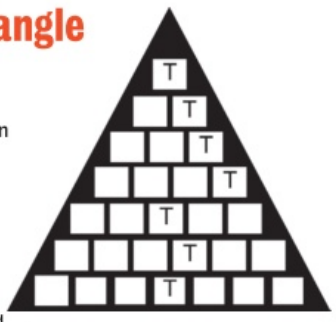
Differences: 1. Fingers are not showing. 2. Counter is not as wide. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Mouth is open. 5. Straw is different. 6. Table is thicker.

Riddler

Answer the clues with a pair of rhyming words. (plump feline = fat cat)
1. unadorned necklace 2. happy fellow
3. old story

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 ___tu Brute...
3 Catch or ensnare
4 Cost of occupation
5 Door sign
6 Not as messy
7 Oriental



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

YOU MAKE A LOT OF NOISE WHEN I TALK ABOUT MARRYING YOUR DAUGHTER...
FOR ONCE YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT I'LL BET YOU'VE GOT A SOFT SPOT FOR ME SOMEWHERE!
FLUFF UP THE ANT-HILL!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEART'S ORAL SURGERY WENT REALLY WELL. NOW SHE JUST NEEDS TO REST FOR A FEW DAYS AND HEAL.
AND HOW LONG WILL THE EFFECTS OF THE ANESTHESIA LAST?
IT DEPENDS, BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO LONG...
LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A REALLY HILARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEO?
SQUIRRELS! THE GIANT GREEN SQUIRRELS HAVE INVADED!

Crankshaft

DESTINATION: MUSEUM
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL IT TAKE TO PUT THE ART MUSEUM ADDRESS INTO YOUR GPS?
IT DEPENDS ON HOW BADLY YOU WANT TO GET THERE!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you will be happy. You may have peace. Your focus on your goals may be very good. You may enjoy a romantic moment with your spouse. Your bonding with your spouse may become stronger now. You will be busy with domestic issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Any disappointment from the last few days will convert into happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal lives. Your network may help you to resume and finish postponed projects. You may start a new venture with the help of your siblings and your network may support you at every step.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last day's crunch is over now. With the help of blessings, you may receive reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate postponed works. Some gains in your business may boost your finances.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy at work. With the help of your network, you may be able to implement plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you to gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may boost harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness. Your way of speaking may affect those around you. You may spend hard-earned money on some worthless stuff. Your mind may work very fast. Make any important decisions with patience.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good and may boost your terms with seniors. You may receive new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may make decisions quickly, which may reap benefits for your day-to-day life. You may plan for higher studies to upgrade your career. Kids may keep you busy. Property-related disputes between siblings may get resolved. You can expect to go on work-related short trips.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be able to complete a difficult task very easily. This may boost your confidence. Your past investments may pay off with good gains. Avoid arguments on worthless topics. It may waste your precious time.

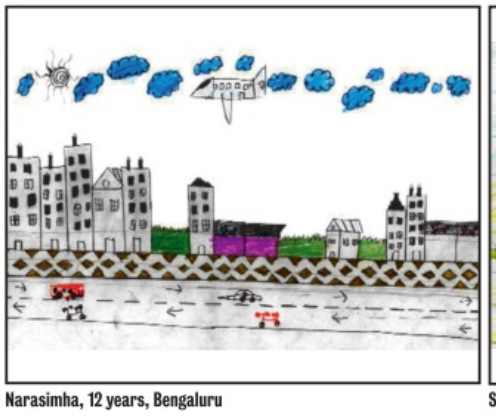
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your destiny may help you to succeed in an easy manner. You may visit a religious place to seek peace. You may spend your time in earning some intellectual or occult-related knowledge. Students may do better. Singles will find a good match. Love birds may take some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy and dissatisfied with your situation. You are advised to be patient and not take any decisions in a hurry. Take care of your parents.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel dull and may have some health issues. Postpone making investments in the business. Do not to start new ventures. You are likely to face losses in business. Your gains may even convert into losses.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull and may have some health issues. Old debts may make you upset. You will become a victim of self-criticism. You will feel guilty about silly mistakes too. It is advised to avoid adventurous tours and rash driving. Your stubbornness may create some issues in your personal life.

KIDZONE



Narasimha, 12 years, Bengaluru

Samarath, 8 Years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
9(18/1000)5=
9(2/125)5=
9(2/25)=
18/25=
72/100=
.72

BULL'S EYE
coat, coca, cocoa, toot, taco, TOBACCO

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

QUOTE UNCODE
Charity is injurious unless it helps the recipient to become independent of it.

QUICK

RIDDLER
1. plain chain,
2. plaid lad,
3. stale tale

MENSA PUZZLE
F. Stripes go the opposite way when reflected in a mirror.

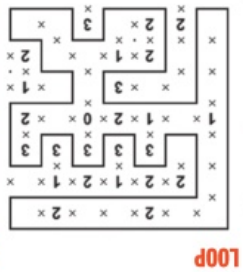
SUDOKU

5	2	9	6	7	8	4	1	3
8	1	6	4	2	3	5	7	9
3	4	7	1	5	9	8	2	6
6	9	1	2	4	7	3	5	8
7	3	4	8	1	5	9	6	2
2	5	8	9	3	6	7	4	1
4	8	3	7	6	2	1	9	5
9	7	2	5	8	1	6	3	4
1	6	5	3	9	4	2	8	7

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 7 – 5 + 3 = 14
Medium
4 x 2 + 3 + 1 = 12
Hard
6 / 2 x 3 x 5 = 45

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, EL, Net, Rent, Enter, Neater, Eastern.

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # A debut to watch out for

'RRR' actor Jr NTR's brother-in-law, Narne Nithiin, has made an entry into movies with the family drama 'Sri Sri Sri Raja Vaaru' directed by Satish Vegesna

Star of the show!

Ananya Panday cast her spell at Apoorva Mehta's star-studded birthday bash as she stepped up in a sheer black number.

The actor added some glitz, to the star-studded bash in a gorgeous sheer gown with a thigh high slit. She wore her

hair in messy curls, rocked smokey eyes and black nails. The see-ensemble is from the luxury brand AADNEVIK that sells custom pieces for an estimated Rs 8-20 lakh. **—ETimes**

Hello, old friend

The Tamil version of Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth's song 'Payani' has been released today. The song is receiving a lot of appreciation and love from the South Industry. Aishwaryaa's estranged husband Dhanush was quick to congratulate her for the song. Calling her a "Friend", he wrote, "Congrats my friend @ash_r_dhanush on your music video #payani God bless."

Now, Aishwaryaa has responded to Dhanush's tweet. She wrote, "Thank you Dhanush....Godspeed."

The Hindi version of the song which has been titled 'Musafir' will be out on March 22.

ROLES FOR THE SOUL

Pooja says she wants to do films that make her soul happy

Actor Pooja Hegde says it is her endeavour to be a part of projects that bring her creative satisfaction.

The 31-year-old actor, known for films such as "Mohenjo Daro","Duvvada Jagannadham", "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo" and "Most Eligible Bachelor", said she aims to create a body of work that speaks for who she is as a person.

"I want to do films that make my soul happy as an actor. I want to make more films for women because growing up, I felt there weren't enough films for girls. I didn't feel represented enough.

"When you watch someone on screen, you want to be them... It is so inspiring when you see stronger women on screen. And I hope that I can make more content, which can inspire other girls to do the same. I have a long way to go. I hope that I can create my body of work, which speaks for who I am as a person," Hegde said. The actor made her cinema debut with Tamil superhero film "Mugamoodi" but it was Ashutosh Gowarikar's 2016 period film "Mohenjo Daro" that brought her wider fame despite not doing well at the box office.

Hegde said the film's failure was a setback for her.

"When you come from a non-film background and your first film doesn't do well, it kind of sets you back a little bit. It's not like I have the top filmmakers in the country going like, 'don't worry, take another chance'. Your first film becomes the audition to the world.

"And people quickly judge you whether you're good or you're not. And when it doesn't work, it kind of pushes you back."

Hegde said she decided to get back on her feet and started looking for opportunities in South cinema.

"There were a lot of offers coming to me after 'Mohenjo Daro' in Hindi, but they were not something I was excited about or wanted to do. At the same time, South cinema was giving me such amazing films and I just went where the content was. I went with my heart and my gut feeling."

Hegde currently features opposite superstar Prabhas in multilingual film "Radhe Shyam", which hit the theatres countrywide last week.

Written and directed by Radha Krishna Kumar, the film features Prabhas as Vikramaditya, a palmist who is conflicted between destiny and his love for Prerana, essayed by Hegde.

The actor said that she was supposed to collaborate with Prabhas on another film but that didn't materialise. But destiny brought them together in "Radhe Shyam".

"I think somewhere in my destiny, this film was there and this is why this character of Prerna was offered to me. It's such a beautiful and layered character. There's so many shades to her. She's not the average Hindi heroine film character. There was so much depth to her and that's something I loved about it. I like love stories. So I was very happy that in a commercial film on such a big scale, I got to be a part of a love story."

PTI

> **"I want to make more films for women because growing up, I felt there weren't enough films for girls. I didn't feel represented enough**

Tom, Zawe ready to walk down the aisle

Star couple Tom Hiddleston and Zawe Ashton are getting ready to take the plunge.

Just days after sparking off engagement rumours, People confirmed that the couple is engaged. Rumours about Tom popping the question went viral after the actress was spotted wearing a diamond ring on her left ring finger during BAFTA 2022 ceremony.

The 'Betrayal' co-stars walked the BAFTA 2022 red carpet hand-in-hand on Sunday night. While Tom looked dapper in a black blazer and trousers, Zawe looked stunning in a flowing pink gown. The actress managed to conceal her massive diamond-encrusted ring from photographers on the red carpet, by holding on to her purse. A photo from the BAFTA party gave fans a first look at her stunning engagement ring.

Hiddleston and Ashton reportedly met in 2019 while starring in the play 'Betrayal' and reportedly started dating while working on the production.The couple were seen showing off some PDA last September while vacationing in Spain. They made their red carpet debut at the Tony Awards later that month.

Home for Holi-day

Priyanka Chopra has returned to Los Angeles after her recent business-cum-fun trip to Rome. Taking to her Instagram story, the actress shared a stunning selfie with a caption that read, 'Hi Home!'

Dressed in a blue and white outfit, Priyanka looked stunning as ever. With her hair tied up in a stylish bun, the actress accessorised with several chains around her neck and earrings.

On the work front, she was last seen as Sati in 'The Matrix Resurrection'.